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Gov. Togiola welcomes Football All-Stars to Samoa Bowl V

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono and First Lady Mary Tulafono hosted an official dinner in honor of the Hawaii and American Samoa Football All-Stars on Saturday night, December 29, 2007, at the Convention Center in Utulei.

Governor Togiola welcomed all the participants of Samoa Bowl V to be played on Tuesday, New Year's Day at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tafuna.

"It truly is a pleasure and an honor every year to host all the Samoa Bowl All-Stars. And even more special this year, our 5th year, and we're growing and getting better every year. We're very happy with the success of Samoa Bowl and we owe it all to the participation of the Hawaii and American Samoa teams. We thank you very much for your participation," said Governor Togiola.

"On behalf of my wife, Mary, and the Samoa Bowl committee, we welcome all of you to Samoa Bowl V. And, a special welcome, again, on behalf of the First Lady, the people and government of American Samoa, the Samoa Bowl Committee, the American Samoa All-Stars and coaching staff, we welcome the Hawaii All-Stars, coaching staff, committee and the family support group to American Samoa. Welcome Home," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola said it was a very proud feeling to see both football teams as part of "our one big and happy Samoan family."

"It is very true what you continue to hear about Samoa Bowl and the true spirit of what we set out to do five years ago. We wanted to invite our Samoan and fellow Polynesian football players from off island, in Hawaii and the mainland, and give this once in a lifetime and wonderful opportunity to come back home to your roots and play on Samoan soil against your brothers that call Samoa home so that they can also enjoy you as brothers," said Governor Togiola. "You've now arrived and we're happy and proud that you are on island. Every year we continue to learn from you and it is our prayer that you also learn something from us and take home a big slice of your Samoan heritage. Enjoy your visit. Good luck to both teams. Get to know each other. Make the best of it because the memories of Samoa Bowl V is a once in a lifetime experience," said Governor Togiola.

ASCC Sea Grant Agent Assists Manu'a Aquaponics Project

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Students at Manu'a High School will soon begin harvesting their own tilapia and learning to use by-products of the fish farming system as an aid in growing fruits and vegetables, thanks to a collaborative project organized by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) and the American Samoa Department of Education (DOE), and overseen by UH Sea Grant agent and Marine Science instructor at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Ephraim Temple, as well as his predecessor John Gonzales. In late December, Temple supervised the final implementation stages of a new system designed to help Manu'a students cultivate a new food source using a technique friendly to their environment.

Explained Temple, "In early 2007, Sea Grant, DOE, and Principal Diana Amperosa of Manu'a High School reached an agreement to combine our resources to establish an aquaponics system on the Manu'a campus. The establishment of this system, which uses waste water from a fish tank to grow various vegetables and fruits, will enhance the school's science curriculum. My role has involved acquiring the materials for the system, including a 300 gallon tank, plumbing, water pumps, air pumps, and water quality testing kits. I taught the students how to assemble the system and supervised them as they built it. I've also brought fish, food, vegetable seeds and growing material to stock the system and provided technical training to the students, Principal Ameerperosa, the science teacher Claire Bacus, and the Land Grant employees stationed on Ta'u, Keli Tagaloa and Su'esu'e Alopopo, to perform daily maintenance of the system. DOE paid for shipping the materials from Tutuila to Ta'u and is helping to develop the curriculum."

In addition to working on the Manu'a aquaponics project, Temple spent his first semester teaching Marine Science at ASCC during fall 2007, bringing with him the benefits of his many years in the field. Born on Kauai, HI, and raised on the Big Island and Oahu, Temple has spent much of his life in Tonga, Australia, California, Mexico, Ecuador, and Oregon. "My love of the ocean and my natural curiosity drew me to the pursuit of degrees that would qualify me to work near tropical oceans. I chose aquaculture after I learned about the state of the world's wild harvest fisheries, and how these fisheries currently cannot entirely meet the demand for seafood. I feel like I can have an influence on people to help them learn how their behavior impacts the world around them, and to help them become better stewards of their resources. When done wisely, aquaculture can provide a good source of seafood to people who would otherwise go without it."



UH Sea Grant Agent and ASCC Marine Science instructor Ephraim Temple (second left) rings in the New Year with his son Isaac, wife Melinda and daughter Ella Temple recently assisted the new aquaponics project which will bring tilapia production to Manu'a.

(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

Temple graduated from Kahuku High School on Oahu, and went on to receive his B.S. in Zoology with a focus on Marine Biology from U.H. Manoa, and then an M.S. in Fisheries Science from Oregon State University. For his first professional experience, as part of a legislative fellowship with Oregon Sea Grant, Temple worked closely with coastal legislators before moving on to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program to serve as a Junior Extension Agent. As the only Sea Grant representative currently serving American Samoa, Temple's duties include promoting sustainable aquaculture and increasing the public's capacity to manage the Territory's aquaculture and wild fish resources.

Temple described his first semester at ASCC as "very rewarding". He teaches MSC200 – Introduction to Aquaculture, as well as MSC280 – Marine Science Special Projects, both of which give students the opportunity to combine classroom theory with practical application.

As Temple explained, "My Special Projects students gathered information on traditional Samoan fishing techniques and will compile that information to produce a brochure for the public. My Aquaculture students have begun their own sunfish (tilapia) farm. They used the knowledge they obtained in class to acquire the appropriate permits and materials to establish a successful farm. Soon they'll stock their system with fish and begin their production. My students showed a lot of dedication and produced significant results."

Reflecting on how education can help us to better protect our marine resources, Temple explained, "The community should take an interest in Marine Science because, among all the people on this planet, Samoans are some of the most affected by ocean conditions and ocean health. We live on small islands and use a lot of ocean resources for food and cultural perpetuation. However, largely due to a lack of understanding of our impact on our environment, the coast is becoming filled with garbage and other pollution which destroys important resources like coral reefs, and drives away fish. Knowledge will help all of us to make better choices about what we do with our garbage and waste, and to make plans for better stewardship in the future."

Anyone who would like more information on aquaponics or ASCC Marine Science classes can contact Ephraim Temple at 731-8169.

Governor Togiola makes known his list of priority projects for \$20-million-dollar loan

Governor Togiola Tulafono has made known to Fono leaders his list of priority government projects proposed to be funded with the \$20-million-dollar loan from the American Samoa Government Employees Retirement Fund (ASGERF) which was approved by himself and the Fono last year.

A preliminary breakdown of the proposed projects includes \$3 million each for the construction/renovation of the Fono building, a tugboat for the Port, and the fiber optic cable project which is also getting another \$3 million from the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funds for fiscal year (FY) 2008.

Another \$2.5 million is to help cover ASG's share for the upcoming 10th Pacific Festival of Arts set to be hosted in the territory later this year from July 20-August 2

Other projects listed by Togiola include two projects totaling \$1 million for the annex at the Executive Office Building in Utulei which includes the Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled (OPAD), \$2 million for harbor and dredging projects, \$450,000 for a new KVZK-TV antenna, \$500,000 for the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, and \$380,000 for a hangar at the Tafuna International Airport.

The decision on what goes on the priority list was finalized by the American Samoa Finance Committee which is composed of the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the ASG Treasurer or his designee.

The nine listed priority projects amount to \$15,380,000

The left over money, which would be a little less than \$5 million, may be used to fund other projects that were listed for funding in the law that created the loan but were not included in the list of priority projects. They include an extension to the Tax Office at the EOB, library extension, roof work for the EOB, Immigration Office building, Procurement Office warehouse, Fagaalu village shoreline, Port office/Fire Department buildings, the customs bond warehouse, and an animal pound and veterinary clinic.

The loan is expected to be repaid with a percentage of the money collected from excise taxes imposed on beer and malt, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and all revenue collected from the Customs Declaration Forms Process Fee.

Once the loan is fully repaid, this provision of the law will be repealed.

Governor Togiola announces intention to develop Malaloa marina

Governor Togiola Tulafono has announced that he is looking at developing the marina at Malaloa village, from the Malaloa wharf area all the way up to the former Burns Philp building which currently serves at the headquarters for the local ASCO Motors operations in Pago Pago.

The Governor made the announcement last week at the Pago Pago Tennis Courts during the ground breaking ceremony for the Phase II road reconstruction project from Fagatogo to Pago Pago.

"We are looking at ways to develop the marina," the Governor said. "We have interested investors that are looking very earnestly towards the possibility of a complete private development."

Nonetheless, the Governor added, "The government is also looking at developing the marina if it doesn't work out with the investors and private financing."

Togiola said that the development of the marina "should really improve this side of the Bay Area."

He continued, "Across the bay, we are also talking with the Army Corps of Engineers about dock extension all the way from Pago Park to accommodate the small boats that moor there."

The Governor concluded, "There is a lot in the works and in the pipeline for the area. We are looking at redeveloping the whole Bay Area because this is our area of commerce, and it is only fitting because we are a seaport, that the development should be directed there."

Gov. Togiola opens Samoa Bowl 5, “show your support for our troops”

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono officially threw out the first football to the Hawaii and American Samoa Football All-Stars, on New Year’s Day 2008, at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tafuna to start Samoa Bowl 5. Final score: American Samoa All-Stars 22 – Hawaii All-Stars 7.

Gov. Togiola’s Opening Ceremony Remarks:

“Our Samoan All Stars from Hawaii and American Samoa, coaches and the entire family support group, I wish you all a Happy New Year. It truly is a happy occasion for all of us as our sons and daughters have come together for the festivities of Samoa Bowl 5.

And now as we take the field for this exciting annual event, let us be reminded of the sacrifice and commitment of our other sons and daughters protecting our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and throughout the world.

As you play today, show your support for our troops. Play for a soldier whose sweat, blood and lives have been sacrificed so that we can enjoy our lives today in total freedom and pursuit of happiness.

Players, I know that some of your parents and family members are in Iraq and Afghanistan. Make sure you keep them and other soldiers close to your hearts and minds as you play today.

We thank God for the freedom that we are blessed with and continue to enjoy everyday. But, let us remember that freedom is not free.

I am reminded of Luke 12.48: “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

Young men and women, all the players of Samoa Bowl today, and also our volleyball all-stars from Hawaii and American Samoa, I just want to remind you that your participation did not come as an accident. You were selected because of the great talent you have. You were chosen because you are young leaders. You have been appointed to the team because you have displayed leadership character and qualities among your peers.

So, today, you are playing as brothers on this land that you are proud of and call your home. No matter where you reside off island, you are brothers today and you will be brothers forever.

Play hard. Play well. Give it all your strength and all your might. But, play fair. Play by the rules. It is my prayer that the Good Lord will take care of all of us and keep us safe today. *Finau malosi. Ta’aalo ma taniivi ma le fa’amaoni. Ia manuia le ta’aloga.*”

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On January 5, 1912, the Australian Mail Line made its last call at Pago Pago. It was replaced by the Oceanic Steamship Company of San Francisco.

On January 5, 1942, the U.S. Navy began mining the approaches to Pago Pago Harbor. The Naval Station Commandant, Captain Laurence Wild, so notified Mr. Alfred Clarke Turnbull, New Zealand’s Administrator of Western Samoa.

On January 5, 1966, Robin Lee Graham arrived in Pago Pago from Apia aboard *Dove*, on his solo circumnavigation.

On January 5, 1989, Special Agent Robert Heafner of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Honolulu Office, apprehended fugitive David Richard Davis (aka David Myer “Rip” Bell) at the Airport Restaurant in the Pago Pago International Airport. Davis was wanted by the Michigan State Police for murdering his wife, Shannon Mohr Davis, in 1980. Davis’s whereabouts had been reported by an anonymous female caller in Honolulu, who had seen Davis on NBC-TV’s *Unsolved Mysteries* program. She told *Unsolved Mysteries* that Davis was employed as a pilot by Samoa Air, a commuter airline managed by Jim and Connie Porter of Anchorage, Alaska. Davis was tried by the State of Michigan and sentenced to life without parole in a maximum security prison.

On January 7, 1997, Polynesian Airlines *Aolele* Flight PH211 (a De Havilland *Twin Otter* airplane) crashed into Mount Sagato Iosefo near Moamoa, Western Samoa, killing three of the five people aboard. The plane was diverted from the Fagali’i airport, and was instructed to land at Faleolo, due to bad weather caused by Tropical Storm “Evan.” Approaching Faleolo, Captain Colin (“Gus”) Pyper was told to turn around and attempt a landing at Fagali’i; in so doing, the Otter crashed near Chanel College.

On January 8, 1915, three people were killed in a Manu’a hurricane. A boy was drowned, a woman was killed by a falling tree, and a man was decapitated by a flying piece of roofing iron.

On January 9, 1941, a board of four U.S. Naval officers, chaired by Lieutenant Commander N.W. Sears, prepared a joint plan for the defense of Samoa, based on recommendations made by Marine Corps Captain Alfred R. Pefley in 1940. The defenses included four 6-inch guns, six 3-inch guns and fourteen 50-caliber antiaircraft guns. Provisions were also made for patrol vessels, coastal lookouts and mine warfare.

On January 10, 1914, the Department of Public Health was established in American Samoa, and was headed by “the Senior Medical Officer of the United States Naval Station, Tutuila.”

On January 10, 1915, the Manu’a hurricane destroyed the Papatea School, which was one of American Samoa’s first public schools. (It was rebuilt and reopened in April, 1920).

On January 10, 1920, Commander Warren Jay Terhune, Governor of American Samoa, visited Rose Atoll and erected a concrete monument with the inscription: “Rose Island, American Samoa, Trespassing prohibited. Warren J. Terhune, Governor, Jan. 10, 1920.”

On January 11, 1938, Pan American World Airways’ *Samoaan Clipper* (a Sikorsky S-42B flying boat, piloted by Captain Edwin Musick) exploded northwest of Tutuila, at 14 degrees 8 minutes South Latitude and 170degrees 51 minutes West Longitude, shortly after taking off from Pago Pago Harbor. The explosion occurred when one of the *Clipper’s* engines developed an oil leak. In order to lighten the airplane and make a safe landing, Captain Musick decided to jettison his excess fuel. His last message, at 8:27 a.m., said “We are going to dump gas and we can’t use the radio during the dumping. Stand by.”